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# Body functions

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**Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>**

## *Identifying and Definitional Attributes*

Data Dictionary:	NCSDD	Version number:	2
Knowledgebase ID:	000549	Admin status:	SUPERSEDED
Metadata type:	DATA ELEMENT	Effective date:	01-MAR-05
Registration Authority:	NCSIMG		
Definition:	Body functions are the physiological functions of body systems (including psychological functions).		
Context:	Body refers to the human organism as a whole; hence it includes the brain and its functions, that is, the mind. The 'Body functions' classification is a neutral list of functions that can be used to record positive or neutral body function as well as impairment of body function. 'Impairments' of body functions are problems in body functions such as a loss or significant departure from population standards or averages. This data element, in conjunction with 'Impairment', enables the provision of information about the presence and extent of impairment for given body functions. 'Body functions' and 'Body structures' together represent one of the three components that define the concept 'Disability'. 'Activities and participation domains' and 'Environmental factors' are the other two components.		

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype:	Numeric
Representational form:	CODE
Representation layout:	N(N)
Minimum Size:	1
Maximum Size:	2
Data Domain:	1 Mental functions 11 Global mental functions 12 Specific mental functions

- 2 Sensory functions and pain
  - 21 Seeing and related functions
  - 22 Hearing and vestibular functions
  - 23 Additional sensory functions including pain
- 3 Voice and speech functions
- 4 Functions of the cardiovascular, haematological, immunological and respiratory systems
  - 41 Functions of the cardiovascular system
  - 42 Functions of the haematological system
  - 43 Functions of the respiratory system
- 5 Functions of the digestive, metabolic and endocrine systems
  - 51 Functions related to the digestive system
  - 52 Functions related to metabolism and the endocrine system
- 6 Genitourinary and reproductive functions
  - 61 Urinary functions
  - 62 Genital and reproductive functions
- 7 Neuromusculoskeletal and movement-related functions
  - 71 Functions of the joints and bones
  - 72 Muscle functions
  - 73 Movement functions
- 8 Functions of the skin and related structures
  - 81 Functions of the skin
  - 82 Functions of the hair and nails

Guide For Use: Multiple codes may be recorded. Where multiple body functions or impairments of body functions are recorded, the following prioritising system should be useful.

- The first recorded body function or impairment of body function is the one having the greatest impact on the individual.
- Second and subsequent body function or impairment of body function is also of relevance to the individual.

Collection Methods: In order to indicate the presence and extent of an impairment in relation to a given body function, 'Impairment extent' should also be recorded.

This data element consists of a neutral list of body functions (single digit level of coding) and more detailed categories; either level of detail may be chosen for use. Either single digit headings (such as Mental functions) or two-digit categories (such as Global mental functions) may be recorded.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Body functions version 1  
 relates to the data element concept Disability version 2  
 relates to the data element concept Functioning version 1

relates to the data element concept Activity - functioning, disability and health version 1

relates to the data element concept Participation - functioning, disability and health version 1

relates to the data element concept Assistance with activities and participation version 1

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### *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document: World Health Organization (WHO) 2001. ICF: International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Geneva: WHO.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2003. ICF Australian User Guide Version 1.0. Canberra: AIHW.

Source Organisation: World Health Organization

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Comments: 'Body functions' and 'Body structures' together represent one of three main components in the ICF that define disability. The ICF was endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2001 and is a core member of the WHO family of health related classifications. Further information on the ICF can be found in the ICF itself and the ICF Australian User Guide (AIHW 2003) and the following websites:

- Australian Collaborating Centre ICF website

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/disability/icf/index.html>

- WHO ICF website:

<http://www3.who.int/icf/icftemplate.cfm>

The ICF provides a framework for the description of human functioning. The components of the ICF are defined in relation to a health condition. A health condition is an 'umbrella term for disease (acute or chronic), disorder, injury or trauma' (WHO 2001).

### *Data Element Links*

#### *Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

NCSIM    Functional characteristic

#### *Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

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